

ABSTRACT

An image forming apparatus, determining in sorting recording sheets whether or not recording sheet transport interval is shorter than a first predetermined value, sets the longest time settable as a delay time when the interval is longer than the first value. When the interval is shorter than the first value, the apparatus, determining whether or not the interval is shorter than a second predetermined value, sets the shortest delay time settable when the interval is shorter than the second value, and sets a reference delay time when the interval is longer than the second value. The apparatus prevents sheet jam before a sheet eject mechanism by ensuring that the mechanism returns to an initial position before the front end of a following sheet reaches sheet eject rollers after the rear end of a preceding sheet passes through the rollers.